

# "Crossroads" Traveler Finds Christ By Radio

By Bonita Sparrow

ARLINGTON, Tex. (BP) — Doug Stroud figured he had life by the tail with a downhill pull.

He was proud that his brand new Mark IV could outrun local policemen bent on slowing him down as he hurtled through the night, sometimes driving 3,500 miles a week," at 90 miles an hour, listening to the radio to keep awake and praying to the spirits to keep me safe."

Stroud, president of Trans Texas Leasing Inc. here, drove at night to keep business appointments in 13 offices across the country.

He was convinced that a preacher "was the lowest thing on the earth; a missionary was something that crawled under him, and the WMU (Woman's Missionary

Union) was just a bunch of cackling old hens," opinions that have since changed.

By his own admission he had a vicious temper and foul mouth.

Wouldn't Miss Today he's equally convinced that "preachers are the finest people in the world, missionaries have a marvelous opportunity, and the WMU is a fabulous organization — my wife is a member and she wouldn't miss a meeting for the world."

His life has changed so drastically that a business friend he hadn't seen in six months stopped in his tracks to demand, "What's happened to you? You're different!"

"God has happened to me,"

Stroud said. He then gave "Country Crossroads," a Southern Bap-

tist Radio and Television Commission radio program major credit for bringing him, and his entire family, to God.

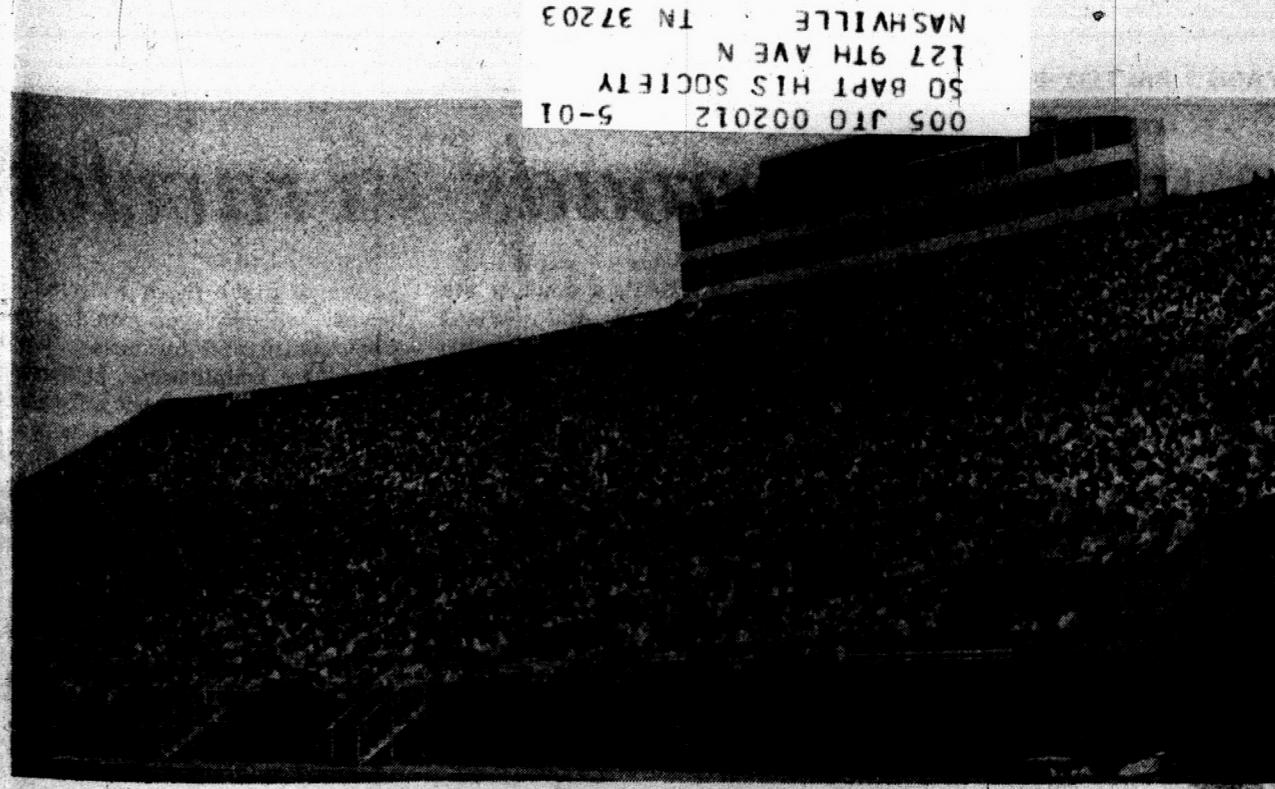
"I had always figured that anybody who was a Christian couldn't make it on his own," Stroud told the Radio and Television Commission's board of trustees recently.

Stroud had come to that conclusion after recognizing at an early age that there is a stronger power.

"I studied a lot of other faiths, looking for a religion. I ended up denying the entire Bible. Then I started working in palm reading, the zodiac, horoscopes, still looking for something."

Very Real Horoscopes led to crystal ball

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## Billy Graham Crusade Crowd

Crowds of 37,500 on Sunday night and 43,200 on Monday night greeted Evangelist Billy Graham as he opened his Mississippi Crusade in Jackson's Memorial Stadium this week. Through Monday evening there had been 2,078 inquirers, 721 of whom had

made professions of faith. This was 34.7 per cent of the total. There had been 1,173 women and girls and 905 men and boys among the inquirers through Monday night. (Photo shows only one stand at the stadium on Sunday night.)

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## Mississippi Baptists To Aid Resettlement Of Vietnamese

Rev. Rodney Webb of Jackson, associate in the Department of Cooperative Missions for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and director of language missions for the board, has been named to coordinate Vietnamese resettlement efforts by Baptists in Mississippi.

The Home Mission Board has put the machinery in motion to help in the resettlement of the displaced Vietnamese and has established guidelines for churches wishing to sponsor Vietnamese families.

The Home Board is channeling its efforts through the Church World Service, which is one of seven agencies contacted by the U. S. government for help in the resettlement situation. Southern

Lottie Moon Offering Exceeds \$23 Million Goal

RICHMOND (BP) — The final total for the 1974 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions has exceeded its \$23 million goal and topped last year's total by more than \$1 million, according to Foreign Mission Board officials here.

The \$23,234,004 received is the highest total ever. The first Lottie Moon Offering (\$3,315) was given in 1888. In 1973, Baptists gave \$22,232,757 to the offering.

The 1975 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal has been set at \$24 million by the Women's

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Baptists also worked with Church World Service in the resettlement of Cubans, Ugandans, and others in former years.

Irvin Dawson, associate director of the Department of Language Missions for the Home Mission Board, is coordinator of the refugee resettlement effort nation-

wide for Southern Baptists. He has contacted all state Baptist Brotherhood directors requesting that they encourage their church groups to consider sponsoring refugee families.

Elmer Howell, director of the Brotherhood Department for Mississippi Baptists, is putting the

wheels in motion through Baptist Men's groups in this state. He said:

"Associational and church Brotherhood leaders will have opportunity in the near future of working with the associational and

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## Proclamation '76 Revivals

"Proclamation '76" will be a nationwide revival effort during 1976 sponsored by the Home Mission Board and the evangelism departments of the state conventions. It is aimed to tie in with the Southern Baptist Convention's observance of the nation's bicentennial.

The observance in Mississippi will be in the form of simultaneous revivals in the northern portion of the state in March and in the southern half in April.

The dates have been established as March 14-28 in the northern section and April 4-18 in the south. The dates were announced by Rev. Roy Collum, director of the Evangelism Department for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Generally, the dividing line between north and south will be regarded as Interstate 20 as it runs east and west. If there are problems in any areas, the dates should be altered, Rev. Collum indicated.

He said the revivals were designed to be held in local churches on an association-wide, simultaneous basis. Information is available from the Department of Evangelism office, Box 530, Jackson 39205.

## Mississippi Sawmill Goes To Ecuador

In the dense forests of eastern Ecuador, homesteaders encouraged by the Ecuadorian government soon will hear the shrill of a large, high speed saw from a modern sawmill, due to the imagination and foresight of a Mississ-

sippi Baptist missionary to Ecuador, plus the voluntary efforts of four Mississippi industries and many of their employees.

Rev. James P. Gilbert of Clinton is a missionary in Quito, Ecuador, and a participant in

Agricultural Missions Foundations, Ltd., which is a nonprofit association of Mississippi Christian Laymen banded together to support agricultural mission around the world.

In his work in Ecuador, Rev.

Gilbert became familiar with a project by the Ecuadorian government to stimulate oil exploration in the eastern regions of that country. As the country built roads into the remote, heavily forested region for use in oil exploration, a plan was devised to allow controlled homesteading in the area, which is very sparsely populated.

Rev. Gilbert's concern was for a sawmill, which will be needed both to cut lumber for houses and farm buildings from the trees cleared from the land for farming and also for use as a source of cash for these farmers, who could harvest portions of their land and sell lumber to others for constructing stores, use in building churches and the other structures needed as communities develop.

On a return visit to Mississippi, Rev. Gilbert began to explain his ideas to others, and was able to secure a small wood-framed sawmill complete with a 6-cylinder GM Diesel Engine Power Unit to send to Ecuador. This equipment was donated by D. G. Seago Jr. of Seago Enterprises Division

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Sawmill For Ecuador, Corinth Machinery Company employees who donated their time to the rebuilding of this carriage for an agricultural mission sawmill in Ecuador pose with their finished product. Airline Manufacturing in Columbus, Miss., donated

the carriage to be rebuilt, Corinth Machinery do-

nated the parts and some labor, and Baptist and

other volunteers working for Corinth donated their

time to complete this carriage.

## MAY 1 1975 Anguish Plagues Baptist Missionaries To Vietnam

By William T. Roberson  
Evacuated Southern Baptist Missionary to Vietnam

BANGKOK, Thailand (BP) — The war in Vietnam is over. Americans are out of South Vietnam, including Southern Baptist missionaries.

Thirty-four of the Baptist missionaries appointed to Vietnam have stood by helplessly in neighboring countries, watching their adopted country fall apart piece by piece during the past few years.

One volume can hardly contain the thoughts which have raced through the minds of the missionaries and their children. Many times each day they have prayed for Vietnamese Christians and friends left behind and recalled the evangelistic upsurge underway before South Vietnam fell.

Except for a return trip on

April 24 by the Baptist Mission's chairman, Earl Bengs, and its social ministries director, Gene Tunnell, to aid evacuation of Vietnamese Baptists, all the missionaries had evacuated Vietnam by April 14.

Each missionary made his or her own decision to evacuate, after praying and seeking the advice of American and Vietnamese officials, Vietnamese co-workers and personnel of sister religious missions.

Memory of the narrow escape of missionaries Bob Davis and Gene Tunnell from Danang remained vivid in their minds.

None of the missionaries left Vietnam without great anguish. Most sensed they may never return. None, although they had to leave most personal belongings behind, suffered any danger or

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## Home Mission Board Okays Missionaries' Refugee Work

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptist Home Mission Board directors unanimously passed a motion encouraging continued efforts by the board to minister to Vietnamese refugees in the resettlement camps and assistance to them in relocating in the United States.

Board president Russell H. Dilley, presiding over the regular monthly meeting of the directors executive committee, praised the staff and missionaries for moving swiftly in response to the situation and said he was impressed with the cooperation of the Foreign Mission Board and Home Mission Board in the matter.

Oscar Romo, director of the department of language missions, and Paul Adkins, director of the department of Christian social ministries, told the directors that missionaries already are active in the three resettlement camps in Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Camp Chaffee, Arkansas; and Eglin Air

Force Base, Fla.

They will work with Southern Baptist foreign missionaries at each camp. Both Adkins and Romo have consulted with Eugene Grubbs, the foreign mission board's disaster relief coordinator, to coordinate the effort. Two for-

mer missionaries are already at work in the camps and two more have been requested.

Home Mission Board efforts at each camp will be in conjunction with the Foreign Mission Board and will assist efforts by state

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## Marian Frost Leavell Dies In Oxford Hospital

Miss Marian Frost Leavell died Monday, May 5, at Oxford-Lafayette County Hospital after a brief illness. She was 69.

Miss Marian, or Miss "M" as she was known by many, was Baptist Student Union director at the University of Mississippi for 36 years — from September 1, 1931, until September 1, 1967.

Funeral services were held at First Church, Oxford, on May 8 at 11 a.m. Dr. Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary and Miss Leavell's cousin, delivered the funeral message. He was assisted in the service by Dr. Lewis Sewell, pastor of First, Oxford; Rev. Wayne Coleman, a former pastor of First, Oxford; and Rev. Ralph Winters, director, Department of Student Work, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Burial was in Oxford.

On retiring as director of BSU at Ole Miss in 1967, Miss Leavell

accepted a position at her alma mater, Blue Mountain College, as housemother of Stevens Dormitory. She served in this capacity for six years before returning home for her real retirement in

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## Two Mississippians To Be On Baptist Hour In Summer

Two men from Mississippi will share duties on the summer series of Baptist Hour sermons for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

They are Dr. H. Edwin Young, born and reared in Laurel and now pastor of First Church, Columbia, S. C., and Rev. Frank D. Pollard, pastor of First Church,

(Continued on page 2)



Mississippi's replica of the Liberty Bell was sent on its way to Miami Beach for the Southern Baptist Convention on Monday afternoon with ceremonies in Jackson. Looking on were, left to right, Rev. James Richardson, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; Dr. Jerry Weber, president, SBC; Gov. William Waller; Dr. John Lee Taylor, pastor of First Church, Grenada; Lt. Gov. William Winter; Heber Ladner, secretary of state; and Dr. W. O. Vaught, pastor of Immanuel Church, Little Rock.

# "Crossroads" Traveler Finds Christ By Radio

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gazing — "Satan used this tool more than anything else" — and Stroud ended up with a Ouija Board that overnight left the fun and games stage and became very real to him and his wife.

"The spirits talked to us through that thing told us things that came to pass, told us names we had no way of knowing. My wife and I both believed in them. We were through with God."

But God wasn't through with the Strouds.

"It started on those long nights when I had to listen to the radio to keep awake driving," Stroud said.

"I'm a country music fan. When you travel at night in Texas, about the only radio station you

can get is WBAP, a country station in Fort Worth. And WBAP has Bill Mack and 'Country Crossroads'."

"Country Crossroads" is produced by the commission and Mack, a regular WBAP disc jockey, co-hosts the show with Nashville's LeRoy Van Dyke and Mississippi funnyman Jerry Clower.

"I listened to 'Country Crossroads' regularly for more than a year. I'd hear a grown man, like Jerry Clower, and singers that I admired — like Connie Smith and Jeannie C. Riley — telling everybody they were Christians, and glad of it.

"At first it didn't mean much, but after awhile it sank in that these were professional people, like me, who had to wait for the

public to make them a living. I never thought you could mix Christianity and business and here these people were, at the top of their professions, not only mixing Christianity and business, but putting Christianity first.

"I decided if they could do it, then there had to be something more to Christianity than just a crutch to lean on."

#### Not Convinced

Receptive, but not convinced, one afternoon Stroud ran into two businessmen in his office building.

"They asked me what I believed and I told them about the spirits. One of them said he didn't believe like that, but he loved me anyway, and he would pray for me.

"About a month later I ran into him again and, in what seemed like 15 minutes but was really 45, he told me how simple it was to be a Christian."

That polished the diamond that "Country Crossroads" had dug from the rough.

"A few nights later I dreamed about my brother — who had died in 1951 — and my wife's grandfather who had died recently. They both came to me saying, 'My God is real.' That was 2 a.m., January 24, 1974, and if it was a dream it was as real as looking at someone in the room with you.

"I knew that was my very last chance. I got out of bed and down on my knees and I didn't accept Jesus. I asked him to accept me. And he did. And if it hadn't been

for 'Country Crossroads' I never would have given those guys the time of day and I would not be a Christian now.

"Right now, God is chairman of my company's board of directors and I try to go to him with every decision I make. He's led me to a spirit-filled church (Northside Baptist Church in Arlington) where people tell you they love you and they mean it."

#### Not Interested

Stroud's wife, Carolyn, was not interested in being a Christian. "She didn't speak to me for two weeks because she didn't want to give up the spirits."

"Stroud's wife later became a Christian as did their two daughters — Melinda, 10, and Renee, 7.

"There's no way I can ever

thank God enough for a show like 'Country Crossroads,'" Stroud said. "It's meant more than life to me and my family and I think it will be a sad day if it's ever taken off the air."

"Country Crossroads" one of six radio programs that Baptists produce through their Radio and Television Commission is aired on 532 stations across the country.

Stroud's story is one of thousands that have come to the Radio and Television Commission because of its program:

May 18 will be Radio and Television Commission Sunday and Baptists across the country will mark the day with prayer for the ministry and work of the Radio and Television Commission.

## Anguish Plagues Baptist Missionaries To Vietnam

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physical harm, but watching their field of service fade into oblivion has been traumatic.

#### Hope for Return

One missionary suggested that a more rapid collapse of the delta and Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City), such as occurred in the northern provinces, might have made decision-making easier. Each missionary had kept hoping for the possibility of a return to service.

Some of the missionaries served in Vietnam for 15 years or more. Herman Hayes, for example, left Saigon on April 10, only four days after he and his wife, Dottie, marked their 16th anniversary as missionaries to Vietnam. They were the first couple to enter Vietnam in November, 1959.

Adding to the frustration, recent months of missionary service in Vietnam had been marked by encouraging evangelistic response. Decisions for Christ had become a mass movement in the Binh Dinh Province, where Bob and Priscilla Compher worked for the last six years. Hundreds awaited baptism. Compher baptized 60 converts on his last Sunday in Qui Nhon, only days before that city fell to Communist control.

Revival fires were spreading to other provinces. Wide-spread response to the gospel was evidenced during October and November, 1974, in the Camranh area. More than 100 were baptized, there in one mass service.

Memories of these events continue to rekindle the strong desire in the hearts of the missionaries to return for service in Vietnam.

Bold new approaches and programs were being projected by the missionaries before they were forced to evacuate. Hard hours of planning had gone into the formulation of a statement of objectives and goals for the next 25 years. This seems only a vague dream now.

#### Cruel Punishment

Now the missionaries find themselves wishing they could have stayed little longer — to have accomplished just a little more. Some mentioned guilt about leaving too soon. Others suggested some ministry could have been extended. Hindsight, more knowing than foresight, is a condemning and cruel punishment.

The unknown events which will take place behind Communist lines haunt all the missionaries. Dread and fear of what the Communists will do to those who have held public offices are most intense.

## Two From State On Summer Baptist Hour

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They will preach the 14 sermons from June 1 through August 31 while the regular speaker, Dr. Herschel H. Hobbs of Oklahoma City, is on vacation.

Dr. Young, former assistant pastor of Woodland Hills Baptist Church in Jackson, will preach a series of seven sermons on the

Vietnamese who have been in the South Vietnamese armed forces or who have taken a strong verbal stand against Communism, as well as many others, stand in jeopardy of mass execution. The missionaries know these possibilities are most real. Terror left in the hearts of national Christians is like a paralyzing plague.

Some Vietnamese faced these matters with great panic. Others with more maturity were willing to face whatever is ahead. One young Christian army officer spoke calmly about a possible future under Communism.

"I am the Lord's," he said. "I am convinced I must do my duty to my country as long as it stands. If the Communists take over and I am permitted to live, I shall be happy in the Lord. If I am killed, I shall be happy to be with the Lord."

The acting pastor of one of the Baptist churches remained behind with his congregation because of his desire to assist them in a time of crisis. He had an air ticket to flee with his family, but he stayed. He had been associated with Americans for many years and had been employed by the American military. His courage and devotion to his people have been an unmatched boon to other Christians.

#### Mention of Suicide

Several Vietnamese, in talking with missionaries, spoke irritation-

ally because of their dread of a Communist take-over. The mention of suicide, even among the Christians, was not uncommon. Many of these persons have personally witnessed public executions over the last three decades. Their fear was as vivid as their memory.

The faces and pleas of these Christians, as they said their last "goodbyes," remain vivid in the minds of the missionaries. They linger unabated like the oppressive fragrance of the Jasmine trees which dot the Vietnamese countryside.

Most of the missionaries are young enough to have the greater part of their missionary career still ahead of them. Some will transfer to neighboring mission fields. Hopefully all will continue in missionary service.

They will never forget their many Vietnamese friends and Christians who remain. Memory of the spiritual awakening among the churches and the maturation of many of the Christians gives the sad hearts of the departed missionaries a new hope.

These men and women will always be thankful for their opportunity to bear a witness for Christ in that tiny, war-torn country. The scattered presence of Baptist churches up and down the length of South Vietnam is a continuing offering to God behind the Bamboo Curtain.

Dawson has worked out a six-step guide for the resettlement

church missions committees in providing shelter, food, clothing, and other services to refugees who may come to our state.

"We would suggest that all associational Brotherhood directors work through and in cooperation with the associational missions committee in dealing with refugees who may come to their areas.

"When the needs of a refugee family are brought to the attention of a church, the church Brotherhood director or the Baptist Men's president, working in conjunction with the missions committee of the church, should suggest several avenues of assistance,

(1) project a plan of sponsorship for a family, (2) provide a house or housing for refugees, (3) Plan a food and clothing shower for age groups or families, (4) Provide a 'get acquainted' opportunity for newcomers by having a social hour or a special meal where ethnic or language groups would be brought together, (5) Provide instruction to individuals and family groups concerning marketing, schools, and places of worship, (6) The Baptist Men of a church might work out a plan whereby refugees would be invited to visit in members' homes for 'get acquainted' and orientation periods.

Dawson has worked out a six-step guide for the resettlement

program: (1) vote by the church to sponsor a family (2) write Rev. Webb at Box 530, Jackson 39205 to inform him of the decision (3) the church will be notified of a refugee family needing resettlement and a dossier on the family will be provided (4) the family will be notified that a sponsor is ready and will be provided transportation to the city where the church is located (5) representatives from the church would meet the refugees on arrival (6) the church would provide friendship, counsel, and necessary material support to help the refugees become settled in their new home.

Dawson said it was felt that churches or associations should take official action on the decision to sponsor families even though individuals or U.S. families might be providing the materials and needs of the sponsorship.

The refugees are being temporarily housed in Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Fort Chaffee, Ark.; and Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

The government is paying all the costs at these stations for 90 days.

Concerning the efforts in Mississippi, Rev. Webb said, —

"The Cooperative Missions Department and I plan to do whatever is possible for the Vietnamese refugees. The work will be done through the directors of associational missions with individuals or churches desiring to sponsor refugee families. I hope any church group which is interested in helping in this work will

get in touch with me at the Baptist Building in Jackson."

He added, "This is a refugee settlement effort only. Adoption of orphans must be handled through governmental agencies."

Dr. Earl Kally, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, said, "Baptists need to do everything possible to help these unfortunate people find places of relocation. We as Christian people cannot ignore their plight, and I am sure that Mississippi Baptists will not be found lacking in this humanitarian effort."

## Southern Names Alumni Of Year

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A pastor, an agency director and a retired seminary dean have been named recipients of the 1975 Alumni of the Year award at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Saluted this year as outstanding alumni are: David Q. Byrd,

pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn., since 1968; Arthur Rutledge, executive director of the Home Mission Board, and Hugh R. Peterson, retired Southern Seminary administrative dean.

The three will be honored when Southern Seminary alumni meet in Miami Beach on June 11 for their annual national reunion.



Richardson Milner

Baylor University at Waco, Texas. He attended Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and received his master's degree in theology from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

#### James Richardson

Rev. Richardson, currently in his first year as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, graduated from Mississippi College and later earned the master of theology degree from New Orleans Seminary.

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#### Rev. Herman Milner

Pastor of Van Winkle Baptist Church in west Jackson since 1945, Rev. Milner has seen it grow from a small suburban church of 360 to a present membership of 1,935. Over 5,300 individuals have been united with the church during his pastorate.

Through the years some 56 young people have volunteered for full-time Christian service or have entered some Christian vocation. Most of these have selected Mississippi College for their academic preparation. Five of the six members of his family are graduates of the college.

#### Rev. Herman Milner

His church has also helped organize and support five other Baptist churches in the greater Jackson area.

#### A native of Scott County, Rev.

Milner graduated from Clarke College and Mississippi College and continued his education at New Orleans Seminary. He pastored churches in Newton, Yazoo, Simpson, and Rankin Counties before accepting the call to Van Winkle.

#### Rev. Milner served as a trustee

of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary for six years and on the Ministerial Board of Education for six years.

#### Bishop Allin

Bishop Allin was installed in 1974 as the 23rd presiding bishop of the 3.2 million member Episcopal Church for a 12-year term. He lives in Greenwich, Conn., but his office is located in New York City.

A native of Helena, Ark., Allin earned the bachelor of arts and master of divinity degrees from the University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn. He also earned the master of education degree from Mississippi College and holds the honorary doctor of divinity degree from the University of the South.

#### Bishop Allin

In 1931 she took her entire savings account of \$300 and paid cash for a 1931 Chevrolet, which she used as her office for eleven years. The car was parked in front of Peabody building and Miss Leavell used heated bricks to provide warmth during the winter.

Before going to Ole Miss, she taught school a short time at Hubert, Arkansas. In addition to graduation from Blue Mountain, she also studied at Columbia University and University of Mississippi.

#### She is survived by her sister,

Mrs. Claude Bowen of Greensboro, N.C., whose husband was formerly pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson.

## Miss Leavell Dies --

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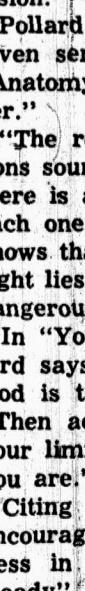
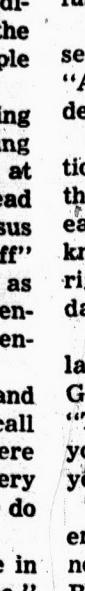
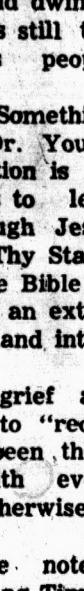
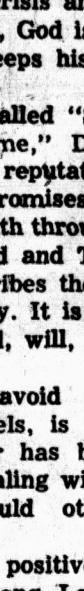
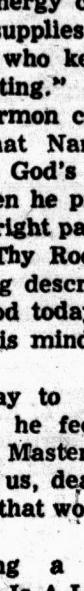
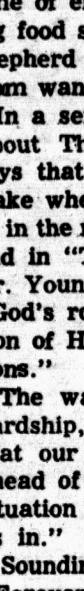
the spring of 1973.

The home she returned to at 310 N. 16th St. was owned by her grandfather, George W. Leavell, Sr., and her grandmother, Corra Berry Leavell. Her father was Landrum P. Leavell, oldest of the famous nine Leavell brothers. Her uncle, Frank Leavell, was for a long time director of SBC student work. Once he teasingly told her she would not last through the first summer at Ole Miss, but she accepted his challenge and stayed nearly 40 years.

In 1931 she took her entire savings account of \$300 and paid cash for a 1931 Chevrolet, which she used as her office for eleven years. The car was parked in front of Peabody building and Miss Leavell used heated bricks to provide warmth during the winter.

Before going to Ole Miss, she taught school a short time at Hubert, Arkansas. In addition to graduation from Blue Mountain, she also studied at Columbia University and University of Mississippi.

She is survived by her sister, Mrs. Claude Bowen of Greensboro, N.C., whose husband was formerly pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson.



# Allapattah Church Sets Child Care Schedule

MIAMI (BP) — Allapattah Baptist Church here will provide preschool child care for residents outside of Dade County during the sessions of the Woman's Missionary Union, Pastors' Conference, and Southern Baptist Convention, June 9-12, in Miami Beach.

The facilities will be open from 30 minutes prior to each session until 30 minutes after each session concludes, according to Mike Dunagan, chairman of the SBC nursery committee.

Allapattah Church, which may be reached from the Miami Beach Convention Center via Interstate 195, is at 3300 N.W. 17th Avenue. The fee will be \$4 for each child per session. No additional charge will be made for lunch or dinner, but "a substantial extra charge will be made for children picked up late," Dunagan said.

Transportation will be provided to and from Allapattah Church for those who arrive by air. Parents should call (305) 758-0559 or write Miami Shores Baptist Church, 370 Grand Concourse, Miami, Fla. 33138 for information.

The church asks that identification be put on each child and his or her belongings and suggests that reservations would be helpful. Contact Mrs. Bonnie Smith, director, day care center, Allapattah Baptist Church, Box 420150, Miami, Fla. 33142.

## Pastors' Conference

### Miami Beach Convention Center

June 8-9, 1975

Theme: "The High Calling Of God"

Sunday Night Joint Session with Woman's Missionary Union  
7:00 "One World, One Witness," Samford University A Cappella Choir  
Welcome, Mrs. R. L. Mathis and James L. Pleitz  
Solo, Acmiko Iinuma, New York Foreign Missionary Commissioning Service, Baker James Cauthen and Foreign Mission Board staff.

#### Monday Morning Session

9:50 "The Pastor—Called of God," Bill Self, Atlanta, Ga.  
10:15 "The Pastor—Preparation For Service," Charles Fuller, Roanoke, Va.  
10:50 "The Pastor—A Teacher Rightly Dividing The Word of Truth," Russell Dilday, Atlanta, Ga.

#### Monday Afternoon Session

2:15 Testimony—"In All Thy Ways Acknowledge Him," Steve Davis, University of Oklahoma  
2:30 "The Pastor As An Evangelist," Ralph Smith, Austin, Tex.  
2:55 "The Pastor—A Man Under Command," Carl Bates, Charlotte, N.C.  
3:10 "The Pastor—A Proclaimer of God's Word," W. A. Criswell, Dallas, Tex.

#### Monday Evening Session

7:10 "The Pastor—His Involvement In The Community," John Claypool, Fort Worth, Texas  
7:35 "A New Man in Christ Jesus," Charles Colson, McLean, Va.  
8:05 "The Joys of Being A Pastor," James Monroe, Fort Walton Beach, Florida  
8:35 "The Pastor—The Rewards for Faithfulness," R. G. Lee, Memphis, Tennessee

## Home Mission Board Okays Refugee Work

(Continued From Page 1)

Baptist conventions. The state conventions have appointed local coordinators —James Roamer, director of Coronado Baptist Center, in California; W. Trueman Moore, a Home Mission Board director and pastor of Eastside Baptist Church, Fort Smith, Ark.; and James Monroe, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

The language missions department, through its immigration and refugee service, is outside the camps in helping relocate the refugees. Christian social ministries missionaries, such as Roamer, are working in various ministries inside the camp.

Romo's department is working with Church World Service in resettling some 10,000 of the refugees. Southern Baptists' part of that figure will be about 400 families, he said, and already many phone calls have been received from churches, associations and state conventions offering assistance.

He said that his staff had set almost everything else aside to respond to the refugee resettlement effort. They have prepared three packets of materials to assist refugees, sponsoring churches, and associational and state conventions.

"We are compiling a list of people who want to help" he said, "churches and people with varied expertise."

Romo said that many of the refugees speak Chinese as well as Vietnamese, and Chinese language missionaries will be used in the effort.

He cautioned that sponsorship of refugees will mean more than providing just food, housing, and money. "It will also mean witnessing to these people and expressing continued concern," he said.

Romo added that his department has also arranged for a supply of Vietnamese scriptures from the American Bible Society for distribution to the refugees.

Adkins said the Christian social ministries missionaries are involved in education efforts, assisting in the Americanization process, of the refugees, and providing day care services for all age groups. They have also offered to coordinate volunteer services at all three camps.

Three men from the Washington, D.C., area, Ector Hamrick, Harry Hearne, and Al Oliver, led



To Graduate At Southwestern

Three students from Mississippi will receive degrees during spring commencement exercises at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, May 16, 10 a.m. They are James M. Keith, left, ThD, Jackson; James J. Nelson, center, MDiv, Jackson; and Sidney L. Perkins, Jr., MRE, Jackson. Dr. Keith is pastor of First Church, Laurel; Mr. Nelson is pastor of Calvary, Brownsboro, Texas; Mr. Perkins is youth director at Highland Hills, Fort Worth.

## Mississippians Send Sawmill To Ecuador

(Continued From Page 1)

of Mid Continent Inc. of McComb. Ralph Williamson, president of Airline Manufacturing Company of Columbus, agreed to package the sawmill for shipment.

When Williamson inspected the mill, he concluded that it would not be large enough to suit the purposes in Ecuador, and decided himself to give the project an older Corinth American carriage he had replaced in his operation.

Williamson contacted Robert Anderson, chairman of Corinth Machinery of Corinth, Miss., to secure Corinth's assistance in a total overhaul plus modernization of the carriage.

Anderson agreed that Corinth would provide the parts and a portion of the labor needed for this task. Baptists and other Corinth employees interested in the

project volunteered their time. They completely reworked the carriage and manufactured a saw husk and carriage track with materials donated by Corinth and fabricated by these volunteers.

Early this year the two mills were ready for shipment to Ecuador, pending the necessary approval of the Ecuadorian government. Arnold Guy of Belzoni furnished a truck to haul the equipment to Gulfport, where the Standard Fruit Company placed it aboard one of their ships to Ecuador.

Rev. Edward McKeithen, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church of Waynesboro, himself a former saw-mill operator, has been given a leave of absence from his congregation, plus a donation for the purchase of tools, and will travel to Ecuador to set up the sawmill operation.

## Balancing Freedom And Responsibility

NOTE: This is the second in a six-part series written by Dr. James L. Sullivan, who has recently retired as president of the Sunday School Board. Dr. Sullivan is a native of Mississippi.

By James L. Sullivan  
Baptists have adopted the congregational form of church government to protect the welfare of local congregations, and thus to defend the religious freedom of its members. However, in history a more aggravating problem still faced them. That concerned the way

local churches would relate to each other. Should they compete, ignore each other, or find a way of cooperating so as to help each other have a world witness and impact for spiritual good? Discovering how this could be done historically was a much bigger problem than most people today realize.

Unless local churches worked together they suffered not only an unbearable loneliness in a misunderstanding and persecuting world, but they could find no way to carry out such injunctions as taking the gospel to "all men," "everywhere," and "the end of the age." But if they did work together, the question was "Could they keep the strong churches from dominating the weaker ones?" and "Would local churches lose their autonomy and thus compromise the liberties of their congregations as a result?"

One system of denominational administration to emerge was the independent local church idea which expresses itself today in independent Baptist church movements. Feeling that the loss of some degree of their liberty was a price for cooperation, they chose to go it alone. In essence each local church was to be a denomination within itself. For awhile some of these churches seemed to thrive and prosper. Almost without exception, however, they would fade from the scene when some strong pastor would get old or die. Too, their works are woefully limited to what one congregation can do. Such was far short of the worldwide ministry required in Scripture. One church can promote missions by itself, but it cannot put on a worldwide mission program by itself. Such a limited approach is obviously an extreme and handicapping one.

The opposite extreme in church administration was of churches to set up a super church with a world head, a controlling body, and a powerful human director.

Under this system the buildings would be centrally owned, funds

would be centrally managed, and programs would be centrally developed and promoted. Even the pastors would be centrally assigned without local churches be-

ing consulted as to who their spiritual leaders would be. Such an approach was rejected by Baptists because it would grind human liberties to powder, destroy the creativity of persons and congregations, and strife initiative in many other ways. Inertia would often result. There would be varying degrees of controls over local congregations. Some denominational systems have been more extreme than others, but this hierarchical base is the pattern from which lesser control systems have emerged.

There is yet another approach. It is one which certain Baptists have practiced, but it, too, has extreme limitations. It is a system in which the denomination operates separate and apart from the local churches. It is done so the local churches would not be required to engage in united actions. This is usually referred to as the "society system." Under the plan Baptist colleges have self-perpetuating boards and the various institutions would be set up where they would be supported by the persons who would make the contributions to carry on the work assigned to that board, agency, or institution. While this is a system with certain advantages in which institutions can be more easily born, the system in time tends to create situations in which those institutions can be separated from the people. They lose their denominational identity. The witness they then give is quite different from the original purposes that brought that board or agency into being.

The Southern Baptist approach is for churches to work together to elicit support and cooperation from the many local autonomous congregations to carry on a worldwide work of missions, education, and charity. The Southern Baptist Convention is not made up of churches. Rather, it is made up of messengers from the churches. This is to keep the convention from becoming a super church with controlling powers over local congregations. The convention does not control the churches. Under our system local trustee groups are elected by the convention to operate those institutions and agencies which the convention feels are necessary to help the churches do the job they are to do. At the same time provisions are made for such cooperation. No church is ever coerced. Any time there might be a violation of conscience a person or a congregation could simply decline to cooperate in that project about which they had such intense feelings. This has proved to be the best balance between freedom and responsibility ever devised. It keeps the churches free. At the same time it provides a vehicle by which thousands of churches can cooperate to do a worldwide work which could not be done without such a method.

History has validated the convictions of our fathers. The best way of doing the work is God's way as free men worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences and work for causes on their hearts, supporting them with gifts through their local churches.

## Praise Service To Open Church Music Meeting

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (BP) — A "service of Praise" led by William J. Reynolds, head of the church music department for the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, will open the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference, June 8-9, 1975, preceding the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting here.

Featured in the 6 p.m., Sunday, June 8, 1975, opening session of the music conference, at Central Baptist Church, Miami, will be blind vocalist-pianist Ken Medina of Upper Montclair, N.J., and the Florida Baptist Singing Men, conducted by Paul Bobbitt, director of the church music department, Florida Baptist Convention.

Following the Sunday night session, the music conference members will be hosted at an 8:30 p.m. reception by the church music department of Florida Baptists at the Miami Beach Hyatt House.

The conference will continue at 9 a.m. Monday morning, June 9, 1975, highlighted by an address, "Every Musician A Therapist," by Roy T. Scoggins Jr., music therapist and principal of education therapy for the Coastal Center, South Carolina department of mental retardation in Ladson.

Rounding out Monday afternoon will be six special interest sessions: The Music Ministry and the Retarded, led by Scoggins; Sound Reinforcement Equipment and Techniques, led by Howard Parker, president of Sound Investment Enterprises, Woodland Hills, Calif.; Handbell Material and Techniques, led by Whitmire.

An organ recital by Miss Jeanne Rizzo of First United Methodist Church, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., will be provided by the Schlicker Organ Company of Buffalo, N.Y., builders of a new 51-rank organ, which she will play, recently installed in Central Baptist Church.

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Three Blue Mountain College seniors gather for a few minutes to check on regalia prior to commencement exercises of May 4. Left to right: Sandra Morrison, Pontotoc; Brenda Yarbrough, Saltillo, and Sheila Daniel, New Albany.

... butions toward the development of the home economics department.

Graduating magna cum laude from the college was Sandra Kirk Adair of New Albany. Those graduating cum laude included Cynthia Boyd of Memphis, Tenn.; Patricia Richardson Hopper of Ripley; Patricia Nadine Sanders of Memphis, Tennessee and Ann McKinney of Fayetteville, Tenn.

# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## EDITORIAL

### "I Had A Part"

There is a story that in many homes in Richmond, Va., there are framed pieces of rope, which are preserved as heirlooms. Behind them is some history.

Years ago the monument of General Robert E. Lee astride his horse Traveler, which stands in a prominent place on Monument Avenue in the city, arrived on a barge, ready to be moved to its permanent position. As plans were made for taking it from the river to the parkway, someone suggested that ropes be attached to it, and that it be pulled by hand by the people of the city who loved the great general so much. The idea caught fire, and plans were made. On the set day thousands of people assembled to take hold of the ropes and very soon the monument was in its place. Then the ropes seemed to disappear. With their knives, men cut the sections they had held as they pulled. Those pieces of rope are the treasured relics in Richmond homes today. They eloquently say, "Someone in this family had a part."

When the Billy Graham Crusade is over, thousands of Mississippi Baptists will be able to say, "I had a part." Never have we seen such united support on the part of our churches and people, and we thank God for it.

Without question this is the greatest revival and evangelistic effort that ever has touched our state. The Graham revival of 23 years ago was glorious, but it did not begin to touch this one in magnitude.

We say revival and evangelistic crusade, because this is both. The weeks and months of preparation and the meeting itself, all center on revival for all Christians who participate, and for the whole area. Evangelism with its witness of Christ and the bringing of people to faith in Him as Lord and Savior is the second phase. We pray and work for revival and evangelism, revival that brings evangelism. That is what Dr. Graham and his team are seeking as they come to a community.

### Miss "M"

Miss Marian Frost Leavell, who was lovingly known as Miss "M" by many of her friends and by generations of students with whom she worked, has gone to be with the Lord.

Death came last week after only a brief illness and brought to a close a ministry to students which had spanned more than forty years. For thirty-six of those years she was BSU secretary (later director) at Ole Miss. She served in that capacity from 1931 to 1967. After retirement from that position she became a housemother at a dormitory at Blue Mountain College, from which she came to final retirement in 1973.

Miss "M" was a member of the widely known Mississippi Leavell family. Her father was Landrum P. Leavell, one of a family of nine

brothers, whose lives have helped to make Southern Baptist history in pastoral ministry, denominational service, missionary witness and in other ways. A cousin, Dr. Landrum P. Leavell, is president of New Orleans Theological Seminary.

Marian Leavell made a place for herself in Baptist life and will be held in cherished memory in many hearts. This is especially true of the thousands of students who were touched by her life. I am sure that today there are multitudes of Ole Miss alumni who could tell of experiences with Miss "M" which they never can forget.

Miss "M" is just one of the numerous Leavell's who have written for themselves illustrious chapters in Mississippi Baptist and Southern Baptist life. Her chapter has been one of the finest.

#### NEWEST BOOKS

**PRO-EXIST-ENCE** by Udo Middelmann (InterVarsity, 126 pp., paper, \$1.95) The author is a German who writes on the reason for man's existence. He sees the universe as created by God and man placed in it for a purpose. This is an appeal for man to fulfill the purpose for which God made him.

**INTRODUCTION TO FRANCIS SCHAEFFER** (InterVarsity, 46 pp., paper, \$1.25) An introduction to the work and ministry of one of the great Scriptural teachers of our day. A study guide to the trilogy, *The God Who Is There*, *Escape From Reason*, and *He Is There And He Is Not Silent*, by Dr. Francis Schaeffer, one of the great spiritual thinkers of our day.

**JEAN PAUL SARTRE** by Ronald A. Carson (Judson, 64 pp., paper, \$1.95) One of a series called "Makers of Modern Thought," written to introduce students to men whose names are frequently mentioned in the schools and colleges throughout the world. Sartre is a modern French philosopher.

**BIBLE STORIES IN RHYME AND RHYTHM** by Sheri Dunham Haan (Baker, paper, 63 pp., \$1.95) The author has set several familiar Bible stories to rhyme and rhythm: Creation, Jonah, Crossing the Red Sea, and others. Patterns are given for hand clapping in rhythm with the rhymed stories.

**ANCIENT MYTH AND MODERN MAN** by Gerald A. Larue (Prentice-Hall, 230 pp., \$6.95; \$4.95 in paper) A study

of myths in history. "Ancient man and his gods are dead and nearly forgotten, but their influence lingers" says the author. "Myths - accounts of divine beings and their activities - formulated the Near East two thousand to five thousand years ago continued to effect and in some degree to structure our individual and collective lives." The author relates these ancient stories to modern practices.

The author looks upon some of the Bible stories as myths which, of course, is the view of theological liberals.

**THE GROUND OF EVIL-DOING** by E. Hans Freud (Christopher, 321 pp., \$8.95) A theological study of the question of man's free choice and the limits of his power to act deals with responsibility, guilt, the origin of wrong doing, and the answer in a new image of man.

**PRAYER IS A THREE-LETTER WORD** by Ken Foure and Bob Phillips (Gospel Light, paper, \$1.45, 86 pp.) The theme of this book is praising God. "The problems of life are like earthquakes that quickly arise... When the problem is at its peak of pressure," the authors say, "then praise God! The brilliance of God's presence and glory are not far away."

**THE GOLDEN ACRE** by Thyra Ferre Bjorn (Fleming H. Revell, \$5.95, 191 pp.) An old-fashioned love story by author of **PAPA'S WIFE** and **PAPA'S DAUGHTER**. When Dr. Ernest Owen and his wife finally plan to escape to their "golden acre" in the country, their only daughter Gail abruptly rejects their dream for one of her own making.

**THE SINGING BOOK** BY Betty Woodward (Convention, paper, 65 cents, 74 pp.)

Unfortunately, a few people have opposed the crusade. We have seen in the newspapers a few small advertisements critical of it. Evidently some simply are opposed to mass evangelism, and others have heard that Dr. Graham compromises with liberals and non-evangelicals. We are sure that these critics are sincere, but we are equally sure that they are mistaken.

As for mass evangelism, there have been far too many multiplied thousands of persons who have found Christ in the crusades, for us ever to accept any criticism of this type of evangelism. We recognize that it has some problems, but what plan does not? As long as it reaches multitudes for Christ we are for it.

As to compromise, if there has been any, it is that the liberals and non-evangelicals have compromised their position in cooperating with Billy Graham. Not for one moment has he ever compromised his position that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, or that every person is a sinner and must be born again through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Every true evangelical should be able to support such evangelism, and I rejoice that our Mississippi Baptist Convention churches are doing so. Billy Graham preaches exactly what we preach in our churches, and when he does that in Jackson, I am glad that we are having part.

Of course, there are problems. Handling such massive crowds is a problem. Parking is a problem. Sitting on stadium benches is a problem. Long bus trips and car trips late at night are problems. Yet, is it not worth it all? It is only for a few days. And the inspiration and the power and the victory of it makes it worth all of the sacrifices which are required. And the souls saved, the lives rededicated, the churches renewed, and the homes and communities changed, make every part of it a privilege.

Joining them are literally millions of Christians around the earth who pray for Billy Graham daily, and thus share in all of his preaching, and in all of the services which he holds.

It is a mighty host of Christians, placing themselves where God can hear them and use them and bless them and the Holy Spirit is doing just that.

We rejoice that our Baptist people are right in the heart of all of this. Certainly we are thankful for every Christian who is having a part, and for all churches which are participating, but we are especially glad to see how our Baptist people are taking part.

Many of them are in places of leadership in the crusade.

Thousands are in the choir, in the counseling groups, serving as ushers, working in the follow up program, etc. Already hundreds have worked in the prayer meetings, in the crusade office, and in other ways.

Tens of thousands are attending. At the opening night service, when more than 37,000 were in attendance, we saw Baptist church buses from many sections of Mississippi, and Baptist people from many parts of the state. We are sure that even more will be coming as the meeting progresses.

God already has done great things for Mississippi in the crusade. The opening service on Sunday night was one of the largest and most effective ever held in the state.

Even greater things are anticipated.

When it is all over, multitudes of Baptists will be able to say, "I had a part."

I think, that as long as they live they will be glad that they did.

If any of you who read this have not yet participated, it is not too late. The meeting runs through Sunday night. Why not determine now not to miss a single remaining service?

**100 BILL HARVEY POEMS** by Bill Harvey (Sword of the Lord, 110 pp., \$2.95).

This book of poems by a preacher and singer includes, among others, the lyrics of his song, "Justified," and the classic, moving "Uriah the Hittite."

**STRANGE SHORT STORIES BY THE DOCTOR** by Walter Lewis Wilson (Sword of the Lord, paper, 128 pp., \$1.50).

Here are fascinating lessons for Christians from common, everyday things such as flies, peanuts, stamps, candies, and dogs. These short stories were often told by the late physician, Dr. W. L. Wilson.

**WHEN LIFE TUMBLERS IN** by Batsell Barrett Baxter (Baker, \$3.95, 136 pp.)

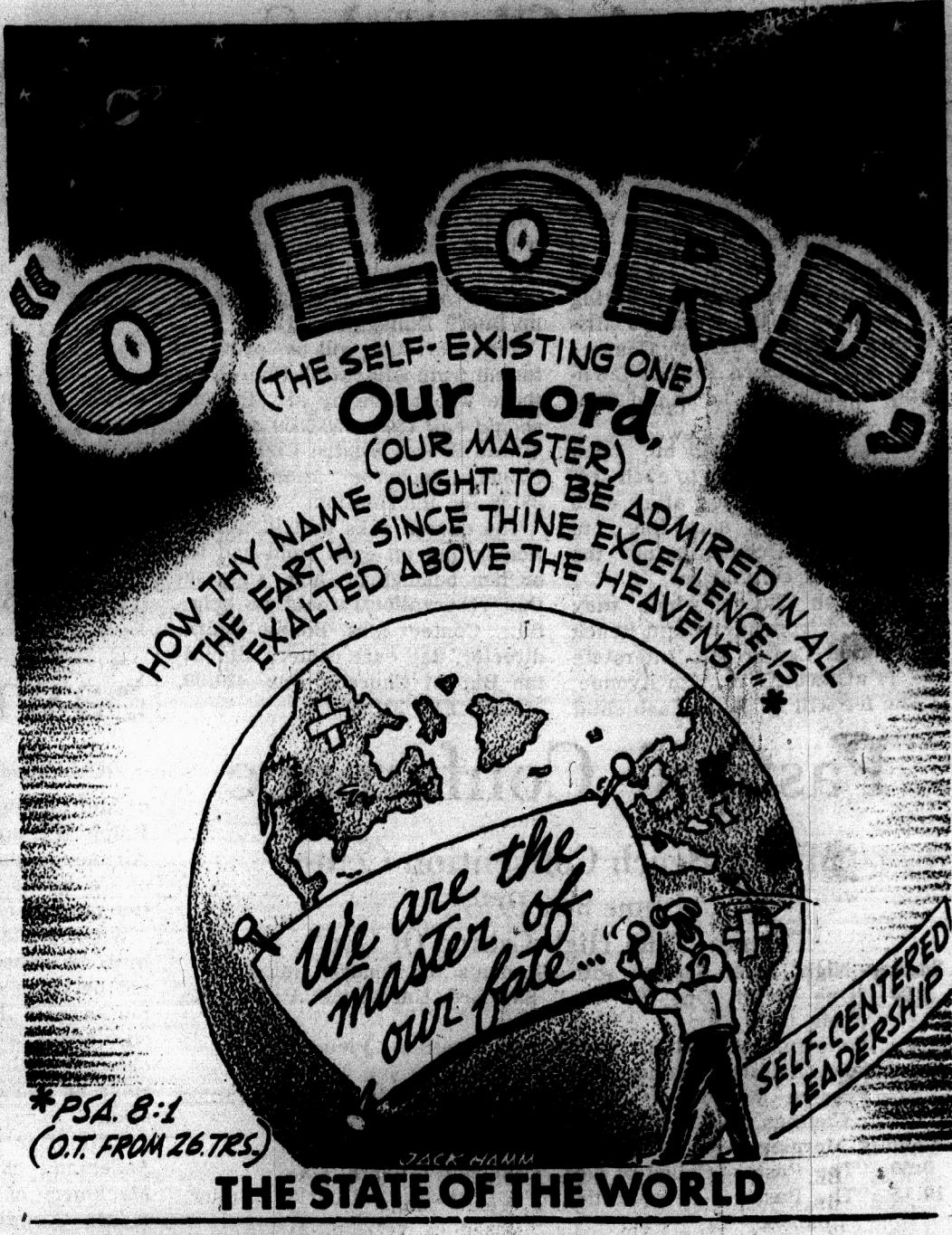
For dealing with and conquering life's problems, the author cites numerous relevant Scripture passages and gives many practical suggestions. He concludes with chapters on resurrection, the deeper purpose of life, and happiness.

**GOD AND A BOY NAMED JOE** by Ethel Barrett (Gospel Light, paper, \$1.25 133 pp.).

In this warm and dramatic book for children, the reader can follow the boy, Joe through the streets of Jerusalem during the last week of Jesus' life on earth, stand beside him at Calvary, and share with him the wonderful Sunday of the resurrection.

**THE SINGING BOOK** BY Betty Woodward (Convention, paper, 65 cents, 74 pp.)

Fun activities given here will help



#### THE BAPTIST FORUM

### Baptists And Catholics

Dear Sir:

Do you have a March 1975 issue of HOME MISSIONS magazine? Have you read it? If you haven't read it, please do so. First, it is a very informative issue. That is fine, but that is largely camouflage for the jolt contained therein. On page 72 you will find an article headed: CATHOLIC-BAPTIST WITNESS. Then on page 121 under "Comment" by Walker L. Knight, read all of it. (Other copies of this magazine, so it says on the inside of the front cover, may be had for \$1.00 from a Baptist Book Store under the title BOOK OF BELIEFS OF OTHER KINDS.)

In the lower part of the middle column it states, quote: "By 1974 Southern Baptists sent the only Protestant press representative, C. Brownlow Hastings of the HMB, to the Vatican." Suggested reading: FOX BOOK OF MARTYRS. Over on page 120 under EXECUTIVE'S WORD you find the subtitle, "The meaning of interfaith witness." From a severely jaded Baptist and a resident of Clinton, Mississippi most of the time since 1916,

Walter E. Price, Jr.  
Clinton, Mississippi

### Light for Living

Chester E. Swer

### A Thought For The Graduate

In recent days and in the weeks ahead, many thousands of young people (and some older!) will have walked across platforms to receive certifications of their having completed requirements for graduation. If you are one of those graduates, I would like to suggest this baccalaureate thought, expressed in good Latin: ESSE QUAM VIDERI, which means "TO BE RATHER THAN TO SEEM" (OR "APPEAR").

That is a clear call to integrate your life in the wholesome principle of genuineness, to avoid the development of a personality which is one thing on the surface and an altogether different thing in the soul, to be honestly the same from the center of your heart to the fingertips of your life, to be really what you appear to be.

Unfortunately in our American way of life there has been a very large emphasis on cultivating the social niceties — the proper look, the proper expression, the proper reaction, whether or not the individual feels or believes in his heart what his external self is saying or doing. If he is being what those surface expressions indicate, then he is "for real"; if he is not, then he is not "being what he appears to be," or, to say it a bit more plainly, he is hypocritical.

What if the seeming or surface self is better than the actual being or inner self? The responsibility of the individual is clear: the being needs to be brought up to the quality of the seeming. Often when it is suggested that a person should improve, the reply is, "I have to be me." My constant reply is this: "If he is not, then he is not 'being what he appears to be,'" or, to say it a bit more plainly, he is hypocritical.

To impress people that you are genuine, honest, "for real," when that is exactly what you will be an achievement whose worth will transcend the worth of fame and fortune, if the fame and fortune were achieved without genuineness of character. Self respect, peace of heart, respect from others, and the lasting impact of your influence depend upon your being and not merely seeming. ESSE QUAM VIDERI!

It is hard for a man to keep secret his opinion of himself.

Falling down doesn't make you a failure, but staying down does.

### The Baptist Record

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## Ezekiel Underscored Personal Responsibility

By Wm. J. Fallis

Ezekiel 18

Early in Israel's history the family, tribe, and nation were more important than the individual, and that viewpoint persisted for a long time. God made his covenant first with Abraham and promised him a large family. Then the covenant was renewed as that family grew into the thousands became the nation of Israel. Before Achan was discovered in the theft at Ai, the Lord said that "Israel hath sinned." When Achan was singled out as the culprit, he and his family and all his possessions were stoned to death and then burned. The individual person's religion and responsibility were tied up with the community. But Jeremiah's experience with God led him to

stress personal religion, and Ezekiel underscored personal responsibility. This emphasis gave religious experience a new vitality.

### The Lesson Explained DENOUNCING AN OLD PROVERB (vv. 2-4)

Ezekiel was here speaking to his fellow exiles in Babylon, many of whom probably complained about their captivity. Perhaps they felt a little better when they could use this proverb to fix the blame for their suffering. It is not out of line with some earlier ideas of punishment being assessed against children and grandchildren (Ex. 20:5; Deut. 5:9). But Ezekiel is speaking for God when he says that proverb is not true. The reason is that all persons (better than "souls") belong to God, the son as well as the father, the daughter as well as the mother. Thus, God can and does hold each person responsible for himself. He will still be a member of a tribe or nation, but the

Lord will hold him accountable for himself.

### ILLUSTRATING A NEW TRUTH (vv. 5-13)

Then Ezekiel proceeds to illustrate the application of this insight. First, in verses 5-9 he describes a righteous man, and because of Ezekiel's priestly training, we are not surprised to see his emphasis on obedience to law. Between two general statements about the righteous man, he refers to a dozen situations in which the righteous man will act correctly. He does not feast in the groves and high places of idol worshipers. He clothes the naked and feeds the hungry. He does not charge or accept interest. He is always fair when called to judge in a case between two persons. Because he is careful to know the law and obey it, he shall live, "saith the Lord God."

Now, suppose this man has a son, says Ezekiel, who is everything that his father is not. He

violates every law that his father had kept, and verses 10-13 mention some of them. Now, shall he live because he had a righteous father? Although Ezekiel had reversed the situation, the truth was the same. The unrighteous man "shall surely die; his blood shall be upon him." No one else can bear his blame.

To tie the logic knot a little tighter, Ezekiel stretched the story line one more length in verses 14-18. Suppose this second man should have a son who was as righteous as his father had been unrighteous. He would not be accountable for the evil of his father; he would "live" because of his own righteousness. Every person bears his own responsibility.

### OFFERING AN ESCAPE FROM DEATH (vv. 30-33)

Some people had complained that the Lord was unfair; because of the importance of the tribe, a son ought to share the guilt of his father. Through Ezekiel the Lord

## Revival Dates

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5  
Thursday, May 15, 1975



Central, McComb: May 17 - 21; Festival of Faith; Lee and Betty Fisher of the Billy Graham Team, evangelists; Rev. Curtis L. Williams, pastor; Eugene Price, minister of music and youth.

Shady Grove (George): May 18-23; Rev. John Hilburn, McDowell Road, Jackson, evangelist; Sammy Chisolm, directing music; Rev. N. H. Smith, pastor. Services at 7:15 p.m.

Desoto Church (Clarke): May 25-30; Rev. L. J. Fairchild, interim pastor, speaker; Dwight Kemp, singer; services 7 p.m.

promised that a righteous man could lose his standing by defecting to wickedness; furthermore, a wicked man could through repentance have his unrighteousness erased. The Lord insisted that he did not want the wicked to die, but that was the way sin worked.

In verse 30 the Lord says that judgement is inevitable, but repentance, a true turning "from all your transgressions," could save them from ruin.

evening at home than attend a meeting at the church. Do not church him to death. He should not have to think that he had to be in competition with God for your attention.

### CHILDREN, LOVE AND OBEY

There are two things a child must have if he is to grow up to be a mature, God-fearing, law-abiding individual — love and discipline. We as parents need the wisdom to administer them in the proper proportions.

Many parents are afraid of their children. Remember all the authority of God is behind you. If your children know that you love them, then discipline will come easier. Try to understand the child. Ask God for wisdom! He will help you learn how to develop the child to his potential.

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Proverbs, 31:25



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## Devotional

### The Father's House

By J. B. Fowler, Jr., Pastor, First Church, McComb

Jesus always has the right word at the right time. On the night preceding his death he stunned the disciples with the announcement that he must go away. On top of this, he told them that Judas, whose character had been so unimpeachable that they had elected him treasurer of the apostolic band, would betray him. They had not yet recovered from these two jolts when he turned to Simon Peter and told him that he would deny him three times before the dawn of the next day.

These three jolts were almost more than the poor disciples could bear. They were jarred and amazed and their hearts were filled with sorrow. It was at that moment, when their hearts were the heaviest, that Jesus said:

"Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions."

As these words comforted the poor, sorrowing disciples in their day, so they bring comfort to you and me in our day.

In the New Testament, heaven is called by several different names. It is called heaven, a city, a temple, a bride and a garden. Here in this passage, however, Jesus says that we are to think of heaven as a home. He calls it "the Father's House."

There is magic in that four letter word, "home." It stirs the heart as no other word in our vocabulary stirs it. Over home, mothers have wept. For home, fathers have toiled in the blistering heat of the noonday sun. On behalf of home, patriots have died. To protect home, legislation has been enacted. The desire to return home will draw the wanderer from the ends of the earth. The thought of home will nerve the sailor when the storm is the fiercest. The memory of home will hearten the soldier when the battle is the hottest. A song about home will soften the hardest heart and bring a teary mist to the eye of the criminal.

Jesus tells us that we are to think of heaven as a home. He said that it is "the Father's house." We are to approach death knowing that it is the pathway that leads to the Father's house. We are not to approach it with fear and uncertainty. We are to face death with the certain knowledge that Christ is with us, and that at the end of that brief journey we shall behold it all its glorious splendor, the Father's house.

In the Father's house there is no over-crowding. It is spacious and comfortable and adequate. No one who is a child of the Father will be left out.

The emphasis falls, not on the word "mansions," but on the adjective preceding it. The word "mansions" simply means "rooms" or "abiding places." Jesus says that in the Father's house are "MANY mansions."

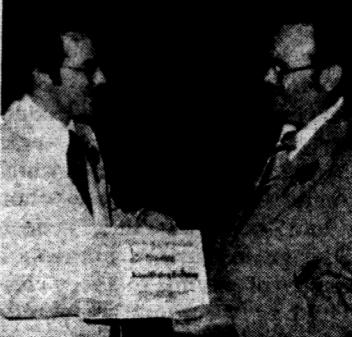
Perhaps Jesus was looking across the way at the temple illuminated by the brilliant full Paschal moon. He could see that the temple consisted of many spacious courts, long corridors and innumerable chambers, in which vast multitudes of people could find shelter by day or night. There the blind and lame found a place of shelter from the weather. The teacher sat there, in the spacious corridors, surrounded by their singing, reciting disciples. The priests and Levites, in great numbers, lived and ministered there. The temple, then, was commodious, adequate and spacious.

Do not listen to those little, narrow people who say that heaven will be small and house only a few people. Such is not the case. We serve no little God. He is incapable of a little thought or a little deed. He tells us clearly, in the Revolution, that the City lies foursquare and measures 12,000 furlongs in every direction. A little simile arithmetic shows us that heaven, by these measurements, contains 3,375,000,000 cubic miles of space! He is giving us a parable, I believe, to illustrate for us the adequacy of the Father's house. It shall be large enough to accommodate all of God's children. Surely, to think of leaving our tent here and moving into the Father's house there takes the sting out of death.

## Names In The News

Dr. Dick Brogan, director of Cooperative Ministries With National Baptists, MBCB, will be speaking in the Peninsula Association in Newport News, Va., May 18-25. Mr. Brogan is jointly employed by the Home Mission Board and MBCB.

Rev. Billy Ray McClellan, pastor of Rome Church, Sunflower Association, is entering the field of evangelism. Before he was pastor at Rome Church, he was pastor of Pleasant Ridge (Holmes). Ordained at Sunflower Church in 1972, he attended Mississippi Delta Junior College and Mississippi College. He is married to the former June Boyer of Sunflower and they have three children, ages 10, 7, and 6. Mr. McClellan is available for open air crusades, revivals, weekend revivals, youth revivals & "any other opportunities to tell the Good News." He may be contacted at Box 129, Rome, MS. 38768 (phone 354-8450, Tuller "collect").



Rev. John W. Rushing, left, pastor of Dinan (Walhall) was ordained to the gospel ministry by McLaurin Heights of Pearl, on April 27. A graduate of University of Southern Mississippi, he is a student at New Orleans Seminary. Native of Walhall County, he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rushing and is married to the former Margaret Robinson of McComb. They have four children. Dr. Eugene H. Dobbs, right pastor at McLaurin Heights, presented the ordination certificate.

Lowrey Memorial Church, Blue Mountain recently ordained Donald Miller, center, senior at Blue Mountain College, to the ministry of the gospel. Dr. M. Douglas Clark, left, pastor of Lowrey Memorial, and Dr. James L. Travis, right, head of the Division of Biblical Studies at Blue Mountain, participated. Miller served during the summer of 1974 as a missionary in California and preaches in area churches when needed.

## Mississippi Newsbriefs

### Just For The Record

#### Steep Hollow Plans Old-Fashioned Day

Steep Hollow Church, Rt. 2, Poplarville, will have Old-Fashioned Victory Sunday on May 18. High attendance goal for the Sunday School that day is 150.

Sunday School will begin at 10 a.m., followed by a preaching service that will feature Evangelist Jerry Mixon from Petal. Then dinner will be served on the grounds.

A member says, "Ladies, get your bonnets and long dresses and men, your overalls, and be at Steep Hollow on May 18!"



Lowrey Memorial Church, Blue Mountain recently ordained Donald Miller, center, senior at Blue Mountain College, to the ministry of the gospel. Dr. M. Douglas Clark, left, pastor of Lowrey Memorial, and Dr. James L. Travis, right, head of the Division of Biblical Studies at Blue Mountain, participated. Miller served during the summer of 1974 as a missionary in California and preaches in area churches when needed.

#### Linwood Homecoming

Linwood Church, Neshoba, will observe homecoming day on May 25. Rev. Kermit Sharp, former pastor, will be guest speaker at 11 a.m. Luncheon will be served and special music will be presented in the afternoon. Rev. Bobby Thompson is pastor.

#### Ella Yarbrough Dies At Age 100

Miss Ella Yarbrough died April 27 at the Mississippi Nursing Home in Jackson. She had celebrated her 100th birthday on January 5 of this year.

Funeral services were held April 30 at Southside Church, Jackson, where she was a charter member. One of her nephews, Rev. Jimmy Yarbrough, conducted the service. Other survivors include a number of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was a long-time employee of N & W Industries in Jackson.

#### 1st, Natchez Celebrates 141st Anniversary

First Church, Natchez, Rev. Odean Puckett, pastor, celebrated their 141st anniversary on Sunday, April 27. At the evening service, the Sanctuary Choir of the church presented "Alleluia!" with Ken Miller conducting and accompanied by Robbie Jones and members of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra.

Former pastors Wayne Coleman and Lewis White were present for the morning's special service of thanksgiving. The congregation assembled for dinner on the ground at the D'Evereux property where they expect in future to build a new sanctuary and other buildings.



#### Louin Couple Married 71 Years

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff D. Simmons celebrated their 71st marriage anniversary on April 17, 1975. Mr. Simmons is 90 and Mrs. Simmons is 88. They are the parents of 8 living children, 2 of whom are ministers.

Mr. Simmons filled the pulpit on the last Layman's Day observed in Louin Church. He continues to participate in the music programs in the church and is often called on to sing specials.

"Both of these Christians are an asset to the church and to the people in Jasper County," states Rev. Howard Davis, Louin pastor.

#### Homecoming At Rock Hill

Rock Hill (Rankin) will observe Homecoming on Sunday, May 18. Dinner will be served following the regular morning services, according to the pastor, Rev. Robert L. Jones.



#### Woodhaven To Dedicate New Building

Woodhaven Church, Ocean Springs, will dedicate their new building on May 18, at 2:30 p.m. A reception in the fellowship hall will follow. Rev. Zena Wells, superintendent of missions, Jackson County, will bring the message. The building, completed on May 10, has an auditorium seating 300; a fellowship hall; ten classrooms; pastor's study; church office, and kitchen. The pastor is Rev. Curtis I. Miller. The church was one year old on January 20, of this year.



#### First, McComb To Dedicate Sanctuary

First Church, McComb will dedicate their new sanctuary, May 18, announces Dr. J. B. Fowler, Jr., pastor.

The completion of the \$700,000 sanctuary is the final phase of construction started when the church made the relocation from the corner of Delaware and Fourth Street north to the present location.

The church was organized in April, 1878. On July 18, 1905, the church under the leadership of Dr. Wyatt R. Hunter approved plans to relocate.

First phase of the construction was completed in 1969 under the leadership of Dr. John Lee Taylor. Dr. J. B. Fowler, Jr. became pastor, January 1974 and the first service was conducted in the new sanctuary on March 23, 1975. Carl

Haskins has served as chairman of the Building Council.

Services are planned for Dedication Day beginning with Sunday School at 9:40 a.m. There will be a dedication service at 11 a.m. with Dr. Wyatt R. Hunter, pastor emeritus, delivering the message. There will be dinner on the grounds.

The Moller Organ will be dedicated at 2 p.m. with Dr. Paul Anderson, associate professor of organ, University of Southern Mississippi, presenting a recital.

Dr. John Lee Taylor, former pastor, will speak during the 6 p.m. Sunday service.

Special music will be presented by Gary Anglin, Minister of Music - Youth, Dr. Victor Walsh and the Chancel Choir of First Church, McComb.

### Retreat For Baptist Women 65 And Up

A special activity is being planned for Baptist Women who are 65 years old and above. A retreat at Garaywa especially for this group will be held at Camp Garaywa, May 26-28, and will be directed by Miss Ethel McKeithen, Baptist Women director.

With a theme of "Share His Love Now," the women will share together in Bible study led by Mrs. J. H. Street of Newton.

Dr. James Spell of Jackson will be present to help everyone know how to keep themselves physically fit; and Horace Kerr, of Jackson, will represent the Council on Aging and will discuss subjects such as Medicare and Social Security.

Rev. Robert Wall of Mississippi College will give a special visual presentation on the Life of Christ.

A highlight of the meeting will be a "Mini - Fair" during which each lady present will have opportunity to display some of her own handwork and crafts. In addition to the fair, there will be a handcraft demonstration.

Other subjects of importance such as food purchase and preparation will be discussed, and a time of fellowship will be shared by all who attend.

To register for the "65 plus Retreat," send \$2 along with your name and address to Ethel McKeithen, WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. The balance of \$8 will be paid on arrival at Camp Garaywa on May 26. The retreat begins at 1 p.m. on Monday and concludes Wednesday following the noon meal.

The Moller Organ will be dedicated at 2 p.m. with Dr. Paul Anderson, associate professor of organ, University of Southern Mississippi, presenting a recital.

Dr. John Lee Taylor, former pastor, will speak during the 6 p.m. Sunday service.

Special music will be presented by Gary Anglin, Minister of Music - Youth, Dr. Victor Walsh and the Chancel Choir of First Church, McComb.

#### Annuity Board Plans Breakfast For Annuitants

The Annuity Board, SBC, will hold breakfast for its annuitants and their spouses during the 1975 session of the SBC in Miami Beach.

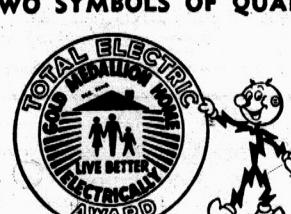
Date of the breakfast is Thursday, June 12. The time is 7:30 a.m., according to Kermit E. Whiteaker, Dallas, vice president and director of retirement guidance for the Board. The location is the Shelborne Hotel on Miami Beach.

All annuitants and their spouses are invited to attend as guests of the Annuity Board, Whitaker added. A charge of \$3.75 per person will be made for others attending.

Since space in the dining area is limited to 325 persons, reservations must be made in advance by writing Retirement Guidance Department, SBC Annuity Board, 511 North Akard Building, Dallas, Texas 75201.

Those who have made reservations should pick up their tickets at the Annuity Board booth in the exhibit area at the Convention Center in Miami Beach by noon, Wednesday, June 11.

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#### Memorial Day

#### At Roundaway

Roundaway Church, Sunflower County, will observe Memorial Day on Sunday, May 18. The guest minister for the morning service will be Rev. George Jones, pastor of Valley Hill Church, Greenwood. Special music will be presented morning and afternoon by visiting former members and guests.

There will be dinner on the ground at noon time with activities following in the afternoon.

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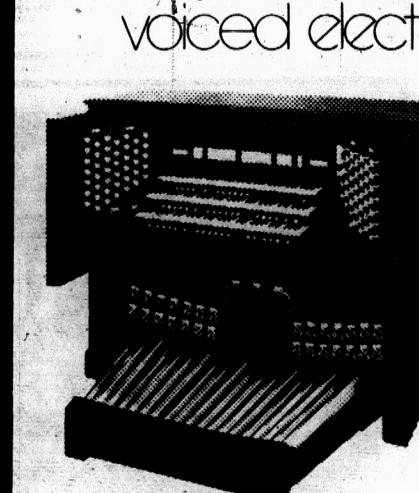
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